

people. They might as well admit it rather than keeping on with this rhetoric this evening.

BIPARTISANSHIP

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I think we ought not to try to do, I mean, I do not mind it if somebody wants to argue on one side of the issue or on the other side of the issue, but you really ought not to try to argue on both sides of the issue.

The gentleman from New Jersey just stood up and said we did not pass a Medicare prescription drug bill. Perhaps he ought to check C-SPAN. I just finished watching a press conference of his leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, and the Senate leader, Mr. DASCHLE. The gentleman from Missouri was reviewing the bipartisan legislation that the Democrats were instrumental in passing. Now, we were pleased that five Democrats joined with us, they were the difference in the majority, in passing a Medicare prescription drug measure off the floor of the House. But the gentleman from Missouri just took credit for that prescription drug measure passing the House, saying that is evidence of their bipartisan nature.

Come on. Figure it out. One side or the other. But do not be on both sides of your mouth.

A FAILED CONGRESS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we have spent 2 years here, 2 years; and the majority in this House that told us the trains were going to run on time, the train has crashed into the barrier here because they have not been able to have the trains run on time.

We did pass in this House a bipartisan bill for a Patients' Bill of Rights. We passed a bipartisan bill for campaign finance reform. We have bipartisan agreement on common sense gun safety legislation. We could have done something about a Medicare prescription drug benefit where all of our seniors were covered. The very fact of the matter is that the Republican leadership of this House is in the pocket of the special interests, refuses to pass any of this legislation, could not pass all of their appropriations bills, cannot get a budget off the ground, and do not know what to do to get out of here. They do not have a program; and if they had a program, they cannot get themselves organized to get it passed in this body. A failed Congress by any sense of the imagination.

WHO IS WORKING?

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me see if I have got this straight. The Democrats are complaining because we have not gotten our work done, but we are supposed to work out a compromise with the President and the minority. We are here working; we are here in Washington working.

That is right here. The minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is over here in Missouri; and the President is out in Beverly Hills, California, campaigning. Who do you think is trying to get their work done?

WHO IS HERE?

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that he better not start labeling people who are not on the floor. I am too civil to get involved in the so-called Republican leaders that are not with us this evening, and so I will not engage in that.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I think they are here. Would you like for us to go get them for you?

Mr. RANGEL. I do not know whether I saw the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) here. Did you see him here today? Because he did not vote.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. His father just died. That may not count. I do not know.

Mr. RANGEL. Is my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), here?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Is he in leadership?

Mr. RANGEL. I thought he was part of the whip organization.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier it was described that there is just one little water bill to pass in the Congress, so why waste our time. That was stated by the minority appropriations senior member. The little water project described is the Everglades funding, a national park that we all have responsibility for.

So I would suggest as Congress convenes tomorrow at 9 o'clock, we have a chance, a majority Congress by Repub-

licans, to pass one of the most comprehensive environmental bills in probably my lifetime and my term in Congress. So I think coming back tomorrow is indeed appropriate. I hope some of the other Members show up for the vote because the most important vote they will get to cast this year involves a national park, not a Florida park, Everglades National Park.

I commend this Congress, our leaders, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), and others who have brought this bill to the floor, Senator SMITH from the Senate who has ushered that bill to our Chamber. And I am delighted and will be proud as a Floridian to cast that important vote tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

I urge my colleagues to return from campaigns and vote with us on the Everglades.

A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad we are going to vote on the WRDA bill tomorrow. Why did we not vote on it in September or July or June? This Congress has been a do-nothing Congress. I am amazed. I have the Governor of my State going around the country saying he is going to bring Democrats and Republicans together, he is going to bring us together. I just wish he would bring the Senate Republicans and the House Republicans together, because here we had an agreement to leave. I do not like to have lame-duck sessions. I want people who are elected and have to answer to the voters here. But now we are here to cast one vote, and tomorrow maybe one or two votes.

I wish Governor Bush would get the Senate Republicans and the House Republicans together before they want to talk to us Democrats, and maybe we can get something done for the American people.

FAMILY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to give thanks to my colleagues for the continued work that we are having and making on the Family Opportunity Act of 2000, H.R. 4825. This Family Opportunity Act is important for families. It allows families to stay together when they may have a child that is born with a severe medical problem.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4825 also helps parents who have the opportunity to work without fearing the loss of Medicaid services for their disabled child instead

of refusing jobs, pay raises and overtime.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4825 is bipartisan; it is bicameral, 139 House cosponsors and 77 Senate sponsors.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4825 is a bill we are still working on. We will not give up on it until we leave, and I want those people who are working on this to know that I support their efforts and appreciate them very much.

LET US NOT PRETEND

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, here we are 2 nights after Halloween, more than a month after the budget is due, engaged in some sort of bizarre charade. Let us not pretend to be working on the budget agreement. Just do not pretend anymore. Agreement was reached, last weekend, and the Senate Republicans stood behind their negotiators. The Senate Democrats stood behind their negotiators. The House Democrats stood behind their negotiators. The President stood behind his negotiators. But the Republican leaders, at the last second, pulled the plug after the phones rang off the hook from the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who objected to any possibility that at some future date even a President Bush, if he gets elected, might not have the guts to kill workplace health and safety reforms.

That is what is going on here, plain and simple. Let us not pretend. Do not pretend. The American people do not like lies.

WHERE IS OUR PRESIDENT?

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, where is our President? While we are here working conducting necessary business, I understand our President is out campaigning. He is not in the Middle East solving problems. He is not working on North Korean peace, but he is out campaigning. Mr. President, the town of New Castle, the Village of Chappaqua, needs you here to work with us to help them. Because you chose to veto the Treasury Postal bill, the supervisor of the town I represent, the town where Chappaqua is, has indicated she may have to raise taxes, your taxes in Chappaqua, Mr. President, by 3.5 percent to cover the cost of the extra police protection for you.

The citizens of Chappaqua ought not to have to carry this burden because you chose to veto a bill. This burden, Mr. President, is just one example of

where you have put politics over people. Mr. President, please stop campaigning. Come back to Washington and do your job.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The Chair reminds all Members to address their remarks to the Chair only, not to the President or others.

LAME DUCK

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, shame on us for pursuing this bizarre charade of a session. The House is gone. We all know we are coming back for a lame duck session, and to criticize those like the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) who cannot be here, how dare you attack our friend from New York in that way. We instead should adjourn this House; and we should instead reconvene the week after the election, and hopefully then we will get a prescription drug benefit in Medicare; hopefully then we will raise the minimum wage; and hopefully then the Republican leadership will stand behind its negotiators so we can actually get something done in this House.

WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT THE CONGRESS HAS DONE

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has accomplished much, and I think we should be proud of what the Congress has done. We said we wanted to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare, and we have. We stopped the raid on Social Security that had been going on for decades, and we made the system stronger by passing legislation locking away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus for Social Security; not for any other spending programs.

Republicans said we would eliminate the deficit and pay down the debt, and we have. In fact, over just the past 3 years we have paid down \$360 billion in debt. Over the next 5 years, our tax cuts will provide the average household almost \$2,000 in tax relief, and this includes the \$500 per child tax credit we enacted; and we are just getting started. Let us continue working on behalf of all Americans to protect and preserve Social Security; to provide tax relief; to pay off the Federal debt and to strengthen education.

HIGHER PRICES WILL NOT WASH

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, how much is enough indeed, Mr. Speaker? The Clinton-Gore administration keeps asking for more and more and more from the American people, more and more in the way of money for their liberal special interests; billions and billions of dollars, in fact. But as if that were not bad enough, the Clinton and Gore administration demand to take even more of America's freedoms. They take and they take and they take. Their big government philosophy crowds out room for our freedoms.

Let me just give one timely example from this past month. The Clinton and Gore administration want to take away our freedom to select washing machines, air conditioners, and heat pumps and to force us to pay hundreds of dollars more for products that we refuse to buy. They proposed that rule just last month on October 5, 2000, which would steal that much more of our liberty. How much is enough? When the big hand of the Federal Government opens the door to our homes and invites itself in, it is time to say enough is enough.

GOVERNMENT IN LIMBO

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, here we are in Washington and the situation is that we have passed 13 out of 13 appropriation bills, and we are trying to work with the President of the United States to finalize these bills. This is always the case. It has always been this way. Both sides always claim victory, but in truth Democrats and Republicans come together because the American people want something done, but now we are unable to do that. The first time in history the Congress cannot adjourn. And why can it not adjourn? Because the President, as I speak, is in California today campaigning. Now, if he was in the Middle East avoiding war, hey, I am with him all the way. If he was in North Korea, if he was in Haiti or something, we are with him all the way. He is in California. Congress is here in Washington, D.C. The Democrat leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is home in St. Louis campaigning. Because of this, taxpayers have a government that is somewhat in limbo. When we get the new President, Mr. Bush, I hope he will bring both sides together because that is what we need.

WE WILL NOT GIVE IN

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)